

Applicants: Elena Feinstein et al.  
Serial No.: 10/021,338  
Filed: December 12, 2001  
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**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 24 and ending on page 16, line 2 of the specification as follows:

--Figure 6 6A shows the cytotoxic effect exerted by full length cDNA clone of KIAA 0538 in a colony formation assay (in P19 mouse embryonic stem cells) performed either in normoxic or hypoxic/low glucose (ischemic) conditions. This shows that the full length cDNA clone of KIAA 0538 sensitizes P19 cells in ischemic conditions, since there are very few colonies remaining, compared to the control (empty vector). Figure 6B is a graphical representation of Figure 6A.--